

*WASHINGTON, DC – (March 2, 2012) Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) released the following statement today in response to the disrespectful and inappropriate attacks leveled on Georgetown University law student Sandra Fluke who testified at a hearing held by the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee on the issue of women's health last week :*

"I strongly condemn the personal and vicious remarks made by Rush Limbaugh and conservative commentators this week about Sandra Fluke, a heroic young woman who is speaking out for her peers about their right to birth control. The behavior of those leaders from the right can only be classified as misogynistic, offensive, and a deliberate attempt to distract us from the legitimate argument about the consequences of limiting access to contraception. Rush Limbaugh repeatedly used sexually-charged, patently offensive, and obscene language to malign Sandra's character.

I stand with Sandra. Sandra represents millions of women, and men, who recognize that women should have the right to determine what is best for them and that there should not be barriers or hurdles that women have to get past in order to get the health care services they need. Her willingness to step forward and be part of the public debate should be applauded – not vilified. Her voice – and the voices of millions of women across the country – will not be silenced by bullies who seek to slander them into silence."

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